

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Patent Office for the careful attention accorded this application and respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the Amendment above and remarks set forth below.

In response the Office Action dated April 10, 2003, Applicants have amended claims 21-23, 26-31, 33, 35-43, 45-47, 50-55, 57, 59, 60 and 62-67 to correct errors of a typographical nature and in order to avoid any basis for rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Applicants have also amended the Specification and Abstract of Disclosure in order to more accurately the subject matter defined by the rewritten claims to invention. No new matter has been added in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 132.

Also, the drawings have amended in conformance with the Specification, as amended. No new matter has been added in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 132.

As amended, independent claims 21, 33, 45 and 57 are directed to a novel POS station, having (1) a cashier-scale terminal integrated with said bioptical laser scanning bar code reading unit, and a first visual display panel and a first keyboard provided on the cashier's side of said housing, and (2) a customer-kiosk terminal integrated with said bioptical laser scanning bar code reading unit, and having with a second visual display panel and second keyboard integrated therewith provided on the customer's side of said housing.

A distinguishing feature of the claimed POS station is that said first display panel at said cashier-scale terminal is aligned with said second display panel at said customer-kiosk terminal along a common viewing plane passing through said housing so that the cashier and customer are facing each other, and said first and second display panels, respectively, during POS transactions, while the customer is permitted to view the displayed price of scanned items and the displayed weight and price of weighted items.

Such inventive features are neither disclosed, taught or suggested, by the prior art references of record, when considered either singularly or in combination with each other. In fact, the prior art teaches away from the claimed invention, by teaching placement of the customer's terminal remotely from the cashier terminal.

In view, therefore, of the Amendment and remarks set forth above, the present invention defined by amended Claims 21-68 is firmly believed to be neither anticipated by, nor rendered

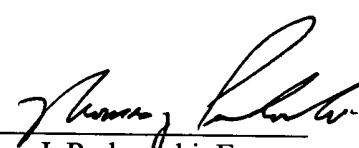
obvious in view of the prior art of record, and that the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiencies to Deposit Account 16-1340.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

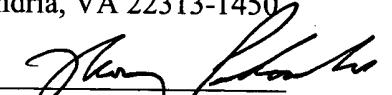
Dated: September 11, 2003

  
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Date: September 11, 2003